



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF



Ministry
of Defence

SECRETARY OF STATE

FLOOR 5, ZONE D, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000

Fax: 020 721 87140

E-mail: defencesecretary-group@mod.gov.uk

**To all Council Leaders in the United
Kingdom for councils with available
Service Family Accommodation**

2 October 2023

**(Copied to all relevant Local Authority
Chief Executives and Local Government
Association)**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to resettle eligible Afghans who supported the UK's presence in Afghanistan. In particular we want to thank you for the considerable work across local government to support Afghan families to move out of bridging hotels into settled accommodation over the summer. We are seeing the positive opportunities for these families to rebuild lives in the UK. We recognise some families remain in temporary or interim accommodation and our teams are working closely with yours to support moves into settled accommodation.

We are writing today to ask for your ongoing support to resettle Afghan families who have not yet arrived in the UK. We have a moral obligation to ensure that a settled life in the UK is something enjoyed by all eligible Afghans. Many of these families have been in third countries for a long time, in some instances displaced from other family members, and we owe it to them to expedite their passage to the UK.

We will therefore be stepping up our efforts. We are pleased to confirm that the MoD has identified additional Service Family Accommodation to support this. These properties are in addition to those previously offered to support guests to exit hotels. In addition, previously SFA was reserved only for ARAP Afghans with a Defence Connection. All ARAP families overseas will now be able to access SFA, subject to property size and suitability.

Supporting additional arrivals is a joint endeavour with Local Authorities. In particular, we would like your support with facilitating the preparation of accommodation in a timely manner to allow moves to happen swiftly, and the integration of Afghans post-arrival. Local Authorities can claim £20,520 funding per individual over 3 years to help them settle in the UK. New arrivals will have recourse to public funds.

Acknowledging the pressures that Local Authorities are under with moving families in at pace, the MoD has also introduced a Direct Leasing model for SFA. This will enable families to lease the SFA properties directly from MoD, taking some pressure off Local Authorities to take on leases. This will also enable us to match families currently in Pakistan quickly and arrange transport to the UK. We will inform you where Afghans have been matched to a property and to discuss integration support arrangements.

In a small number of cases, it may be necessary for moves to go ahead before formal support agreements are in place to ensure people are brought to the UK as quickly as possible. In these instances, we would be grateful if councils could continue to support, including claiming the integration tariff. However, if there are instances where this is not possible, we will discuss with you the alternative integration arrangements that the Government will put in place.

We have attached a full list of SFA properties so that you can see where they are located. Where a match is taking place into your local authority area, we will continue to ensure that you are notified of this as soon as a match has been made.

We want to work with you to support the matching of Afghans into these additional properties, and our officials will continue to work with yours on this. We are also working closely with the Devolved Administrations. We will share an FAQs in the coming days. This work is limited to supporting ARAP arrivals only, and we will continue to discuss with you options for supporting ACRS arrivals into the UK in future.



THE RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP



THE RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP